

As a consumer of digital content, I have a grave concern about the proposed Broadcast Flag.

I am a law-abiding consumer who believes that piracy should be prevented and prosecuted. However, if theoretical prevention comes at the cost of prohibiting me from making legal, fair use of content, then the FCC should be working to protect all consumers rather than enable those who would restrict consumer rights.

In the case of the broadcast flag, it seems that it will have little effect on piracy. The video game, DVD, and other industries have shown that there is no possible way to copy protect digital content, because that digital content must ultimately exist in an unlocked or unencrypted form to be viewed, heard, or played by the consumer. Every single digital rights management technology I've ever researched has been cracked, usually within weeks of its introduction.

With file-sharing networks, a TV program has only to be cracked once, and it will propagate rapidly across the Internet. So, while I may be required to purchase consumer electronic devices that cost more and allow me to do less, piracy will not be diminished.

In closing, I urge you to require the content industry to demonstrate that its proposed technologies will allow for all legal uses and will actually achieve the stated goal of preventing piracy. If they cannot, I urge you not to mandate the broadcast flag.